

How to Talk with God **Relentless in Pursuit**

Luke 11:5-13

Research has shown that modern technologies and social media have absolutely wrecked our ability to focus on anything for very long. This has seriously hurt our ability to talk with God, who is never in a hurry and doesn't get distracted.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined unto me and heard my cry."
Ps 40:1 (KJV)

"Pray without ceasing." **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." **Luke 18:1**

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." **Col 4:2**

So much of the Biblical instruction on prayer has to do with persistence...

Main Idea: Jesus Teaches Us to Never Give Up in Prayer as the Father is Just That Good

"And he said to them, 'Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'" **Luke 11:5-13**

Three Instructions as We Pray from Luke 11:5-13

I. Pray and Do Not Delay – Luke 11:5-8

Travelers in the first century often traveled in the evenings to avoid the heat of the daytime, so it's not odd that a visitor arrived late. Eastern cultures, especially of ancient times, considered hospitality a sacred duty (even when unannounced). To be caught unprepared for a guest would have not only been embarrassing, but it would also have had adverse effects on the family's standing in their village.

"The Lord makes His point: although the man in bed in the house will not stir himself because he is your friend, he will bestir himself to stop you from pounding on his door. He will even give you more for the sake of peace and quiet." **John Phillips**

The burden of this emergency lies with the man who was unprepared and negligent. We pray as a last resort, when it should have been our first call! The application is clear: Pray and Do not Delay!!!

II. Pray and Keep On Praying – Luke 11:9-10

After finishing his parable, Jesus gives an urgent invitation to his disciples.

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." **Luke 11:9-10**

God answers those who persistently pursue Him!

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of his highest willingness. Persistence in prayer is not an attempt to change God's mind, but to get ourselves to the place where He can trust us with the answer." **Phillip Brooks**

"The assurance that everyone who asks receives does not mean that every prayer is answered as we want it to be. Rather, if we persist in prayer, our prayers will eventually be answered according to God's best for us." **CSB Study Bible**

We are so quick to give up on praying when the answers don't come in OUR timing or on OUR terms. Jesus reminds us to Pray, and Keep On Praying!!!

III. Pray and Trust the Goodness of the Father – Luke 11:11-13

Some of us may have a wrong view of God based on the parable of this passage. That would be a HUGE misunderstanding!

"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" **Luke 11:11-13**

"If a tired and selfish neighbor finally meets the needs of a bothersome friend, how much more will a loving Heavenly Father meet the needs of His own dear children! He is arguing from the lesser to the greater." **Warren Wiersbe**

God is Good! Better than a neighbor, he's our Father. He's always generous, and delights in meeting the needs of his children. Trust in the Goodness of the Father because...

"God's delays are not denials. He is teaching us something in the delay. The stops as well as the steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord." **George Muller**

"Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!" **Psalms 66:20**

In verse 13 the greatest of all gifts that your heavenly Father could give is the Holy Spirit who indwells us when we are born again, seals us in Christ for all eternity, and lovingly convicts us when we go astray so that we may walk closely with God! So you can simply pray and trust the goodness of the Father!

When you pray, you are relentlessly pursuing intimacy with a heavenly Father who has been relentlessly pursuing you.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:16-17

Admit to God – *I am almost ready to give up on...*

- **Ask God** – *Father, help me to trust your goodness with...*

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible – Trevin Wax (2017)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- Studies in the Sermon on the Mount – Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1976)
- The Sermon on the Mount – R. Kent Hughes (2001)
- Exploring the Gospel of Matthew – John Phillips (2014)
- The Message of the Sermon on the Mount – John Stott (1985)
- New American Commentary: Matthew – Craig Bloomburg (1992)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Tony Evans Study Bible – Tony Evans (2019)